

sidered as a common stock, to be parcelled out by congress into free, convenient, and independent governments, as the wisdom of that body shall hereafter direct ; but if these (the only lands as this convention apprehend that can) should be provided by congress at the expense of the United States to make good the proffered bounties, every idea of their being a common stock must be thereby given up: some of the states may, by fixing their own price on the land, pay off what of their quota of the public debt they please, and have their extensive territory settled by the soldiery of the other states, whilst this state and a few others must be so weakened and impoverished, that they can hold their liberties only at the will of their powerful neighbours.

That this state is so far from having an intention to increase unnecessarily the expense of the United States, that it hath uniformly given every evidence to the contrary; but this convention impressed with the indispensable necessity of establishing and keeping up a good army, at the same time that they could not be active in giving up a common right of the United States, or in rendering the freedom of their own precarious, determined to exert the only safe means in their power to raise the quota of this state, nor can this convention yet see any possibility of injury to the common interest, from this state adopting the most effectual means to raise its own quota of troops of its own inhabitants partly, or even wholly, at its separate expense.

That this convention have a strong disinclination to go into any discussion of the powers with which the congress is invested, being fully sensible that the general interest will not be promoted by either the congress affirming, or this convention denying the existence of a fulness of power in that honourable body ; the best and only proper exercise of which can be in adopting the wisest measures for equally securing the rights and liberties of each of the United States, which was the principle of their union.

That this convention, very sincerely disposed to contribute every thing in their power towards the common cause, will, if the congress choose neither to specify the lands to be given in bounties, nor to permit this state to give the proposed additional bounty of ten dollars, endeavour to enlist its quota of troops on the twenty dollars bounty allowed by congress, but if the event should prove a disappointment, it cannot be imputed to this state.

That this convention request the honourable congress soon to signify their pleasure in this matter to the commissioners from this state now attending in Philadelphia, that the little time left may not be lost.